

\$200,000 FIRE IN BROOKLYN. VICTIM, NOT A VICTIMIZER.

Batterman's Eastern District Dry Goods Store Was Gutted.

Much Property Might Have Been Saved by an Insurance Patrol.

Fire in Henry Batterman's big dry goods establishment in the Eastern District of Brooklyn, early this morning, caused a loss of over \$200,000, principally in stock damaged by water.

The building is a triangular-shaped structure, fronting on Broadway, Flushing and Graham avenue, the front being three and the rear six stories high.

It is said that the store contained \$100,000 worth of goods, the stock of toys and articles suitable for Christmas gifts being very large.

When Watchman Charles Beppeler made his 1 o'clock round this morning he heard the crackling of fire in the reservoir-room on the sixth floor. He turned in an alarm. Within five minutes the firemen were on the scene, and they turned in a second and a third alarm.

Chief Nevin was in command of the ten companies of firemen sent to the scene. On the arrival of the firemen, the flames were turned to the sixth floor, where the fire started.

It was not until 4 o'clock, however, that the last traces of smoke were seen. The amount of water had been poured into the structure, from roof to cellar, the building was saturated.

Brooklyn is without an insurance patrol, and there is not a tarpaulin on hand with which to cover the stock and save it from the flood of water.

"The fire was burned on the six-story part of the building, and the top floor is gutted; but it is estimated it will cover the loss to the structure."

"The cost of the stock," said Mr. Batterman this morning, "will be least \$200,000. There was still plenty of time when I got to the fire to get the stock with tarpaulins if there had been any time. We are forced, the law is being violated by the contractors and other contractors employed by the city."

The store was the biggest in the Eastern District of Brooklyn. About 250 clerks and helpers will be thrown out of employment.

DYING FROM MALPRACTICE.

Pretty Dora Offenberg's Parents and Three Men Arrested.

Lying in a cot in Gouverneur Hospital today is a handsome young girl dying from the effects of a criminal operation.

Her name is Dora Offenberg, and she is only eighteen. She came to this country three or four months ago to join her parents, who live at 22 Orchard street.

Last night Dr. Markiewicz, of 251 Broome street, was called in a hurry to 22 Orchard street to see Dora. He found her suffering terribly. Her mother told him that Dora had been ill for a few days and she didn't know what was the matter with her.

Dr. Markiewicz found that she was suffering from malpractice. The physician made a report of the matter to acting Capt. Creeden, of the Edridge street police station, and the girl was removed to Gouverneur Hospital.

There was a popular, 18-year-old girl's reputation. Her mother's name is Sophie, a fifty-eight and Beral is sixty. They are Russian Hebrews. The police investigation led to the arrest of the parents and the following day was also made prisoners in connection with the case.

Louis Potschkin, twenty-six years old, of 14 Whitehall street, and his wife, a twenty-five years old, of 36th Avenue street, Bernard Levine, aged thirty-one, of 11 Essex street. The latter is only held on suspicion.

The prosecution to charge a sick-benefit fund for the benefit of all working men in Brooklyn, the Charles street station, said that the man was indicted for having been preferred against Maher at trial. He had nothing whatever to do with the man preferred by citizens, except to send him to headquarters. He said Maher was a good officer.

"The company" it is said, has also absconded from Philadelphia, where there are more indigent victims.

Policeman Maher Denies Swindling His Ninth Ward Friends.

They joined "Piano Clubs" at His Suggestion and Lost Their Money.

Brotherly love and a desire to let his many Ninth Ward friends in on the ground floor of their advanced scheme is causing no end of annoyance to Policeman John L. Maher, of the Charles street station, and is likely to bring him before the Police Commissioners on a charge of violating the rules of the department.

Maher has been a policeman nearly eight years. He has been married for four years to a handsome wife, and has two little golden-haired children. The family lives in his apartments at 74 Christopher street.

The policeman is very popular in the Ninth Ward, and when his younger brother, James S. Maher, who with a man named Leahy, constituted the Sylvester Piano Company, of 2477 Germantown avenue, Philadelphia, opened a branch office at 70 Christopher street, in this city, "Jack" said he is familiarly known, saw an opportunity to benefit not only his brother but also his friends in the ward.

The Sylvester Piano Company's scheme was to organize clubs of 150 members, each of whom was to pay \$1 per month for an elegant, new upright piano until his "certificate matricled." This was to happen when ever a club was completed, the first member enrolled in the club then obtaining his piano for what he had paid in, the sum not to exceed \$150, and the all-gold probability being that the piano might cost only \$50 or perhaps less.

The company was to derive its profits from "leases," that is, when a member omitted his payments for two weeks, when he repaid the sum he could claim a piano, but also the money to the club.

The only "lease" on record is that made by the "company" which skipped out of its club, a group having many "members," who had paid in \$17 each.

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The Range Federation of Labor will demand of the Governor of that State that the right-to-work law be enforced. The law is being violated by the contractors and other contractors employed by the city.

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